Rehabilitation of villages on the periphery of Oscoto Deer Sanctuary

1131. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all development works in villages on the periphery of Oscoto Deer Sanctuary (Uttaranchal) have been impeded and villagers have lost their traditional rights;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a demand has been made to restrict the area of the said sanctuary by bringing an amendment in the Deer Sanctuary Area Act or to rehabilitate villagers elsewhere; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to solve problems of these villagers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttaranchal, the developmental works and the traditional rights of the villagers are restricted to the extent that prior permission of the Supreme Court of India and clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is required for any non-forestry works.

(b) and (c) A proposal to redefine the boundaries of the sanctuary has been received from the Government of Uttaranchal and it has been decided to refer the matter to the National Board for Wildlife.

Improvement in waste management

1132. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to TERI review, the amount of solid municipal and other waste generated between 1997 to 2002 rose by around the same rate as the country's GDP;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 58 per cent of total farm land in the country is affected by either water logging or salination;

(c) whether this has resulted in a loss of production anywhere between 11 and 26 per cent in the agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve its waste management?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir, the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) in their recent review on environment has reported that the total generation of waste has gone up from 47 million tonnes in 1997 to 60 million tonnes in 2002, representing an annual growth of around 5 per cent.

(b) No, Sir. As per the information obtained from India Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR), the area affected by water logging and salinization is 9 and 9.2 million hectares respectively constituting 2.7 and 2.8 per cent respectively of the total geographical area of 328.5 million hectares in the country.

(c) As per rough estimates of ICAR, the loss of production due to salinity may be between 11 to 26% in the agricultural sector.

(d) The ICAR has developed technologies, encompassing use of amendments, improved drainage and varieties tolerant to water logging and salinity for reclamation of water-logged and saline soils through All-India Coordinated Research Projects operating at various centers in the country. As far as the solid waste management is concerned, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has implemented a Centrally sponsored scheme on "balanced and integrated use of fertilizer" during Eighth and Ninth Five-Year Plan, in which 21 compost production units were established by different municipalities in different States. In addition to it, the Department has assisted 9 mechanized compost production plants from municipal bio-degradable wastes during 1999—2001 in the country. To improve the waste management, several steps are taken by the Government, which include, the Notification of Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 and the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

National Board of Wildlife

1133. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bombay Natural History Society has been